



A HEAD FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Above, 11-year-old Skylar Thies and her mother, Mary Jo Thies of Agawam, are in the holiday spirits as they sell gift items at the First Baptist Church of Agawam on Nov. 22. At right, hand-crafted "light bulb snowmen" were one of the many homemade crafts available for purchase. More photos, page 10.

Turley Publications photos by Kimberly Hatch



Car use policy turned down

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Correspondent

The Agawam City Council turned down a proposal to establish a policy on municipal-owned vehicles at their Nov. 17 meeting.

The policy was brought forward by councilors Robert Rossi and Donald Rheault, who contended all town vehicles should be clearly labeled and a formal policy should be in the town code.

icy should be in the town code.

The council voted down the policy 6-4, with Rossi, Rheault, Council President Christopher Johnson and Council Vice President Dennis Perry voting in favor.

Councilor James Cichetti, chairman of the Legislative Subcommittee, stated his committee felt the mayor's policy was sufficient and addresses the concerns of vehicle use. They voted 3-1 on Nov. 12 not to recommend the policy to the full council.

Rossi expressed displeasure over the opinion of the subcommittee. He attended the subcommittee meeting and did not understand why the proposed policy had drawn so much controversy.

"This is simply about addressing accountability and transparency," said Rossi. "The taxpayers deserve that. They deserve to have properly labeled vehicles and to be able to see them in town."

Please see POLICY, page 8

Council OK's green for greens

\$91K to keep golf course afloat; Agawam not alone in the rough

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Correspondent

The Agawam City Council, with reluctance on the part of a few councilors, approved transferring up to \$91,000 in free cash to the Agawam Municipal Golf Course by a 7-3 vote.

The transfer will cover the current gap in the budget so it can be certified by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. At their Nov. 17 meeting, the council was forced to approve an amount of \$22,245.20 from free cash to the golf course to account for the shortfall in the fiscal 2014 budget, covering the year that ended last June 30. If the council had not approved the free cash transfer, it would have been applied to the tax rate in fiscal 2015.

Mayor Richard Cohen said last week the budget must be certified by DOR to approve the tax rate and collect property taxes from residents. Because there are no more reserve funds at the golf course due to the business losing money in three of the last four years, town funds are needed to supply the course until the conclusion of fiscal 2015.

If the golf course makes \$91,000 between March and the end of June, the \$91,000 is returned to the general fund. Council President Christopher Johnson, who has been vocal about the losses the golf course has suffered, said if the course exceeds its projections for the spring, he wants the \$22,245.20 also returned to the general fund.

"The golf course is an enterprise fund and is supposed to be able to sustain itself," said Johnson.

Johnson explained to his fellow councilors if the \$91,000 was not approved, the golf course would not be able to operate in the spring.

"Once the course runs out of money in its budget, it would have to close," said Johnson.

The golf course budget is set based on the previous year's revenues. The revenues have decreased during the past four years and the course has burned through its entire reserve, nearly \$300,000.

Golf Course General Manager Tony Roberto said business has been down at golf courses everywhere, especially municipally owned courses. Roberto was hired two years ago, and has been trying to improve the course.

This year, business was up an average of 33 percent. Weather permitting, he hopes the course will be able to fund the rest of its budget for fiscal 2015.

Please see GREEN, page 8

What are you thankful for this year?



Janet Platosz

"I'm so thankful for all the wonderful friends I have."



Ashley Adams, 14

"I am thankful for my grandpa's health so he can spend Thanksgiving with me."



Nathian Surprenant, 10

"I am thankful that I have great family and friends, and a great teacher."



Joy Benoit

"I am thankful for my health."

Please see THANKFUL, page 2



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What are you thankful for this year?

Interviews and photos
by Gregory Sci belli



Janice Wojtowicz
“I am thankful that all the children in my family are healthy.”



Don Wheeler
“I am thankful for my good health. I am old enough to appreciate it.”



Kylie Seldomridge, 9
“I am thankful Christmas is coming soon.”



Judy Grimaldi
“I’m thankful for my friends and family.”



Rebecca Florek with Skylar, 2
“I am thankful for my family, especially my wonderful daughter.”



Pam DeRosier
“I have so much to be thankful for this year. I am thankful for the job I love, and my six awesome grandchildren.”

Applications available
for colleen contest

The Agawam St. Patrick’s Committee is seeking applicants for the 2015 colleen contest. Applications may be obtained at Agawam High School, the Agawam Public Library, Agawam Town Hall and Cooper’s Commons and Gifts.

Applicants must be between the ages of 17 and 22, single with no children, a resident of Agawam or Feeding Hills, express an interest in continuing education and must claim Irish ancestry.

The Agawam Coronation will take place Feb. 8 at Chez Josef. The colleen and her court will promote a sense of spirit in the local Irish community through various community activities, which culminate in the annual Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Parade on March 22. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply. The deadline for application is Dec. 31. Completed applications may be mailed to Agawam St. Patrick’s Committee, P.O. Box 825, Agawam, MA 01001.

Junior Women to host ‘Breakfast with Santa’

The GFWC Agawam Junior Women’s Club will host its annual “Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus” on Sunday, Dec. 7, from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main St., Agawam.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. The public is invited to come and enjoy a pancake breakfast with

Santa, have pictures taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus, write letters to Santa and many other activities.

The day’s events will also include free books and a story walk provided by the Agawam Family and Community Program.

Snow date is Dec. 14.

Free photos with Santa
at Heritage Woods

Santa Claus is coming to town. He will be stopping by with Mrs. Claus at Heritage Woods Senior Living on Saturday, Dec 6, from 10 a.m. to noon. Children can take a picture with Santa and enjoy treats and activities.

For more info or to RSVP call 413-789-8332 or email Nicole.wallace@genesishcc.com.

Guests welcome at
ACAA holiday party

The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 10, will feature a holiday party in the Community Room of the Agawam Public Library at 750 Cooper St. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Members typically bring in samples of art to show and discuss together at the holiday party. Members are also asked to bring in a special treat for all to enjoy. Guests are welcome.



One example – ESB contributes \$25,000 to Friends of Easthampton Council on Aging for new van. See right for caption.

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ESB Contribution to the Friends of Easthampton Council on Aging, pictured L to R: Virginia Hurteau, President of the Friends of the Easthampton Council on Aging, Inc.; Gary Guyette, Transportation Coordinator Easthampton Council on Aging; Linda Talbot, Executive Director Easthampton Council on Aging; Matt Sosik, President & CEO of Easthampton Savings Bank; Patricia Wojczyk, Vice-President, Friends of Easthampton Council on Aging, Inc.; Tom Brown, Executive Vice President, Retail Banking.



ESB named Top Corporate Charitable Contributor

The Boston Business Journal (BBJ) has recognized Easthampton Savings Bank for being one of the top charitable companies in the region at this year’s BBJ annual Corporate Citizenship Summit.

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Virtual firing range opens to the public

Main St. business just 3rd of its kind in US

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Correspondent

Last Saturday afternoon, just the third virtual shooting range in the country opened in Agawam with the grand opening of “The Range.”

Owner Bob Manning, a firearms enthusiast, says he has been trying to purchase the building at 396 Main St. for three years. When the building became available earlier this year, he jumped at the chance to buy.

“We got the building in July and opened up our firearms store,” said Manning. “It took us some time before we got the virtual range open.” Virtual shooting ranges are technology that has most often been used by the military. Manning said quality equipment for virtual shooting that is accurate for training is very expensive.

He said there are only two other virtual shooting ranges open in the country, one in California, and another in North Carolina. “It is something that there is definitely a market for,” said Manning. “I’m very proud of the fact we have one here in Agawam.” Manning is a firm believer in the idea of safe firearms use and teaching people proper safety practices. The Range and Training Academy provides those services. The busi-

ness offers license-to-carry training and safety courses aimed at people of all ages.

The virtual shooting range equipment also has technology that can be utilized by area police departments for training. Manning says using the virtual range with weapons utilizing air cartridges to make contact with the screen can be tailored to active shooter training and other types of training.

“Our next step is for us to start connecting with area police departments,” said Manning. “There are so many benefits to utilizing the simulator we offer.”

Among them are safety and cost. Manning said there is a cost to practice with firearms for ammunition. The air cartridges cost much less and the accuracy of the virtual range makes for a great gauge of how well a person can shoot a target.

Without using bullets, gun users can practice tactics such as quickly removing a gun from a holster and firing.

“There are lot of people who have been injured by shooting the gun when trying to remove it from the holster,” said Anneliese Townsend, Manning’s business partner and co-owner of The Range. “A lot of shooting ranges now ban that practice. Here, police officers and others can practice that action.”

Mayor Richard Cohen attended the grand



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli
Mayor Richard Cohen, left, and LCPO Billy Berte practice shooting at The Range at their grand opening last Saturday.

opening, and said he was happy to see such a unique business start in town.

“I think this is something that has a great benefit to people in our town and the area,” said Cohen. “It is a safe environment for people to practice with their firearms. It can help our police department with active shooter and other trainings.”

Billy Berte, a leading chief petty officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, was on leave this week and tried out the range. He said the virtual range allowed him to keep sharp while

away from his base.

“We use this type of range to train,” said Berte. “I enjoy shooting and this is a great to do that without wasting actual rounds.”

Townsend and Manning also recommend the virtual range to people who are considering a firearm but are unsure about it.

“They can come and try out the weapons without having to spend the money on a gun or ammunition to see if it is for them,” said Manning.

“We use this type of range to train,” said Berte. “I enjoy shooting and this is a great to do that without wasting actual rounds.”

LCPO Billy Berte

ARE YOU OLD NEWS?

Each week the Agawam Advertiser News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured. Email your answers by Monday at noon to mballway@turley.com.

Last week’s photo: Correctly identifying John Burns was Lou Scherpa.



Fitness First to host blood drive

Fitness First Health & Fitness Center, 60 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills, will host a blood drive sponsored by Mercy Medical Center Friday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A driver’s license with photo or state iden-

tification with photo is required to donate blood. All donors should eat at least two to three hours prior to donating, weigh at least 110 pounds and must be 18 years or older. To make an appointment, call 413-786-1460.

Singing Tree Spectacular’s 40th show in December

The Music and Drama departments at Bethany Assembly of God in Agawam will present the 40th annual Singing Christmas Tree Spectacular Dec. 5-7 and Dec. 12-14.

This year’s musical is titled “The Nativity Symphony” and is arranged and orchestrated by Bradley Knight. It includes fresh arrangements of classic Christmas carols in addition to new Christmas works from today’s writers.

The 70-voice Bethany Choir, under the direction of Minister of Music Ken Bryars, becomes the focal point of the musical, arrayed as ornaments on a towering 25-foot steel tree, and is joined by the 22-piece Bethany Orchestra to present the timeless story of the advent of the Christ in uplifting and inspiring music.

The Bethany Drama Department, under the direction of Marilene Allen (Red Door Theatre), enhances the story with a visual portrayal of Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, the shepherds, the angels, and the wise men as the advent story unfolds in music. Adding to the visual impact of the music and drama,

computer-controlled lighting on the tree “dances” to the beat of the music, creating a thrilling visual explosion of light. Complementing the lighting are scenes projected on the walls of the sanctuary to coincide with the story. This “environmental projection” covers 180 degrees across the stage, and creates a warm and inviting atmosphere for the story to unfold in.

There will be eight presentations of the Singing Christmas Tree Spectacular over the first two Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays of December. Friday presentations are at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 6 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. (matinee) and again at 6 p.m. All seats are free, with no individual reserved seating. Seating for large groups can be arranged by calling the church office at 413-789-2930. A well-staffed nursery for ages 3 and under is available, and there is signing for the deaf in all presentations.

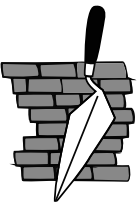
Bethany Assembly of God is located at the corner of Route 57 and Main Street in Agawam. For more information, call the church or visit www.bethany-ag.org.

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Opinion

Should the golf course pay for itself?

The City Council's "investigation" of municipal golf course finances isn't, or shouldn't be, about assigning blame for a deficit or about mayoral politics.

It's about whether the town has a perpetually money-losing golf course, and whether it wants to subsidize a perpetually money-losing golf course. The answer to the first question should become apparent next summer. The answer to the second question is harder to pin down.

The Agawam Municipal Golf Course, off Southwick Street in Feeding Hills, has an independent budget, called a revolving fund, which can collect and expend money without going through the town's general fund. It can maintain a reserve fund, a savings account, to retain profits in good years and bridge the deficit in bad years.

Once upon a time, the reserve fund had \$300,000, but a series of unprofitable years has exhausted this cushion, and the City Council last week wrote a \$22,245.20 check to cover last year's deficit and promised \$91,000 to make up for potential shortfalls this year.

General Manager Tony Roberto, who has only been on the job two years, says he's overseen a big change in operations at the golf course. Roberto said a combination of deferred maintenance and the overall economic downturn over the previous years left the course in horrible shape — both financially and physically — and it took a season just to recover. Now, he said, the course looks and plays much better, golfers are coming back to the sport, and he expects that when the current fiscal year ends next June, the books will balance.

Roberto also points out that many municipal courses are subsidized by government. In some cases, they are integrated into the town budget. In other cases, they receive substantial "in-kind" help from the town's DPW. Neither of these is currently the case in Agawam, said Roberto.

Some form of ongoing civic subsidy may make sense, particularly if it serves as a payment for some other public purpose served by the golf course, such as preserving a large swath of open space in Feeding Hills, or providing a low-cost recreation option to town citizens. But that's a cost-and-benefit discussion that has to take place at the City Council level.

Let's see what the City Council's study subcommittee has to say. If Roberto is right, the changes necessary to return to profitability have already been made and all he needs is a quick bailout to bridge the last deficit, and the next debate will simply be about whether taxpayers should help out during bad times, or when the course needs major capital improvements.

If not — if the golf course has become consistently unprofitable, for whatever reason — the subcommittee's report will deserve a close reading.

Letters to the Editor must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Please send letters to *Agawam Advertiser News*, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or e-mail aan@turley.com.

Why we need
to be giving
more than just
our thanks...



Letter to the Editor

Scouts deserve thanks for job well done

To the editor:

In recent months, a project was implemented in town to replace 23 existing concrete and wood memorial benches at the Veterans Green and at the green in Feeding Hills Center with new steel benches.

At the same time, Philip Woods and Zack Duquette, of the Agawam Congregational Church Boy Scout Troop 82, took on the responsibility of refurbishing 33 of the remaining memorial benches as their Eagle Scout project.

This project involved the removal of all the wooden rails and scraping, wire-brushing and painting of the concrete uprights. Many of the wooden rails had to be replaced, which required detailed cutting and notching of all pieces. All new and existing rails were sanded and painted with several coats of paint.

The result of their hard work is evident throughout town along Main Street, Springfield Street, Country View Apartments, the corner of Suffield and Silver streets and the entrance to Perry Lane Park.

Congratulations to Philip and Zack on a job well done.

Richard Bennett
Agawam Beautification Committee

'The Heart of a Pilgrim: Homeward Bound'

When Thanksgiving rolls around, memories from my elementary school days surface. Images of pilgrims; pilgrims who set out across an ocean in pursuit of a better life; pilgrims who braved stormy seas; pilgrims who endured miserable conditions for about sixty-five days before land was sighted in November of 1620; pilgrims who read Psalm 100 as a prayer of thanksgiving for their arrival in the New World; pilgrims who one year later celebrated what has come to be called "The First Thanksgiving."

But we are all pilgrims, actually. One definition of a pilgrim is "a traveler who is on a journey to a holy place." Pilgrims leave home for a journey of spiritual significance, but they know they're not truly home yet until they reach their destination. Not only do each of us set out on our own personal faith journey, but we also brave the stormy seas of life. We may be facing a personal crisis now. It could be a health crisis. Or we may know of friends or relatives (fellow pilgrims) who are in need of prayer over a serious health or other issue.

As spiritual pilgrims, our journey ultimately leads to God, our true home. Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in God, as St. Augustine said.

God is the source of all our labor, the source of everything. All is gift. Everything we are, everything we have, everything we're able to do, every breath we take, everything we receive, is gift. God has also gifted us with people in our lives. We are the recipient of physical and emotional and intellectual and spiritual legacies from people we know and love, as well as from millions of people who may remain forever unknown to us. For that we can be grateful. How will we respond? Ideally, we should respond with a sense of overwhelming gratitude. That sense of gratitude represents the heart of a pilgrim who is truly homeward bound. That is a Thanksgiving response for today and for every day. As the original Pilgrims read in Psalm 100:4, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."

FAITH MATTERS



KEN BLANCHARD,
PASTOR
AGAWAM UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

For love of the cranberry

This year, my family will gather for an after-Thanksgiving dinner. Two siblings are celebrating on the official day with their in-laws, so we will get together over the weekend. My sister is bringing the stuffing - my mother's cherished recipe. The other dishes are typical: mashed potatoes, butternut squash, roasted turkey, etc. Mom is in charge of pumpkin and apple pie, and the "family" relish. This is a simple recipe in which fresh cranberries and peeled apples are chopped fine and mixed together with a little sugar. So easy, yet incredibly yummy!

It is debatable as to whether or not the Pilgrims dined on cranberries as part of their first Thanksgiving dinner. Some references indicate that they would have initially found the

berries much too tart. Native Americans had long used them as food, medicine, and even dye. The name cranberry came from early German and Dutch settlers who thought that the small pink flowers that appear in spring resembled the head and bill of the sandhill crane. "Craneberry" soon became cranberry.

Native Americans relied on pemmican, a nutritious and long lasting staple made of dried venison, melted fat and crushed cranberries. They are also to thank for stewing and sweetening the berries, making it into the first cranberry sauce. Early colonists caught on and by the end of the 1700s recipes gave helpful instructions for serving the sauce with wild turkey and even bak-

Please see GARDEN, page 5

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All are invited to Dec. 13 wreath-laying salute to vets

Members of the Westover Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, as well as many veterans groups throughout the Springfield area, are proud to partner once again with Wreaths Across America, a nonprofit initiative that recognizes the courage and sacrifices of U.S. veterans by placing wreaths on the graves of the fallen during the year-end holiday season. The goals of this observance are to remember the fallen, honor those who serve and teach our children the value of freedom.

Locally, the public is invited to attend this ceremony at noon on Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam. Prior to the formal ceremony, wreaths will be placed on gravesites in the cemetery. The donation of wreaths was largely due to the work of the Western Massachusetts Chapter, Military Order of the Purple Heart, as well as various other veterans groups, and the Knights of Columbus.

Last year more than 540,000 Worcester Wreaths sponsored by the public for placement on veterans' graves at more than 500 ceremonies held in 50 states plus abroad. Twenty years ago, Morrill Worcester of the Worcester Wreath Co. donated the first wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery, starting an annual tradition that continues today as Wreaths Across America (www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org). The initiative began in 2006 as an offshoot of Worcester's Arlington National Cemetery wreath project. Since its inception eight years ago, Wreaths Across America has experienced significant growth.

Applause Series concludes with Dan Kane & Friends

The 2014 portion of Agawam Cultural Council's Applause Series closes on Friday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. when Dan Kane & Friends perform a concert of Christmas favorites and American standards at the Agawam Senior Center.

Dan Kane and his singers have featured some of the best vocalists in the Pioneer Valley for more than 30 years. Their sold out Christmas concerts at the Mass-Mutual Center and Springfield Symphony Hall are a family tradition for many.

The Agawam Senior Center is located at 954 Main St. and can be reached by phone at 413-821-0604. This and all Applause Series events are free and open to the public. For more information on each of the Applause Series events, visit www.agawamcc.org.

GARDEN, from page 4

ing it into a rich tart. With a plentiful harvest of the native fruit in the months of October and November it is easy to see why serving it at Thanksgiving quickly became tradition. I have read that Gen. Ulysses S. Grant considered cranberry sauce such an integral part of the November celebration that he ordered it served with dinner to the Union troops during the siege of Petersburg in 1864.

I was first encouraged to grow this native fruit after my coworker Rich Giordano of All Hill Farm in West Brookfield expounded on the incredible yield from his ten by 10-foot beds - something on the order of 50 pounds of berries! I installed the bushy transplants in early May, two years ago, after amending the soil with copious amounts of peat moss to aid in moisture retention as well as lower pH. I watered regularly and "mulched" them with sand, as recommended, to keep the weeds down. Once the ground froze I will applied a winter mulch of pine needles to prevent the tiny evergreen leaves from drying out too much. The next year the plants came back strong, but I had no berries yet. I repeated the winter preparation last year, but something terrible happened! This spring, as I was removing the mulch, the plants came right up in my hands! Voles ate the stems, right at the soil line. Ugh. Perhaps I should ask a cranberry grower for advice - there is one right here in Hardwick!

Cranberries grow on vines in bogs, impermeable beds layered with sand, peat, gravel

and clay, originally the result of glacial deposits. Captain Henry Hall of Dennis first cultivated the fruit in 1810, fencing off his bogs and purposely spreading sand over his plants. He observed that the plants grew better when this happened naturally in the wild.

Today some 43,000 acres of cranberries are grown a year. According to a 2009 publication by Cornell University, Massachusetts is the second leading cranberry producer, generating about a half as many as Wisconsin which ranks first. Fresh water, acid peat soil, and a growing season that spans April through November ensure success. I found it interesting to learn that commercially, 1 acre of cranberries is supported by 3 to 4 acres of wetland. As you know, wetlands are valuable filters and home to a diverse and often rare plant and animal population.

With cranberries in season now, why not pick up an extra bag or two for the freezer - they will keep at least until next year's harvest! Besides making great relish, cranberries are a healthy addition to juice, quick breads and really any dish that benefits from a tart flavor.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 24 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food, as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to dfarmer@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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'COUNTDOWN' AT RED DOOR



Submitted photo

Hip Hop Penguins invade the Red Door Theatre for the annual Christmas extravaganza, "Countdown to Christmas," scheduled for Dec. 5, 6 and 7. They are joined by a host of other characters, including singing and dancing elves, reindeers, ragdolls, bears and a cast of 55 local talent. For ticket information and reservations, call 413-789-2026 or visit reddoortheatre.com.

K of C to host 'Breakfast with Santa'

The Agawam Knights of Columbus will host "Breakfast with Santa" Sunday, Nov. 30, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. John's Parish Center, 833 Main St., Agawam.

Tickets for adults are \$7. Children under 10 are admitted free.

For more information, call Mike Pisano at 413-636-4593.

Seniors

Agawam Senior Center

Weekly calendar of events

Monday, Dec. 1: 8 a.m., Free Hearing Screening by Ear Masters; SHINE Representative Available (by appt.); 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9 a.m., Painting Club; 9:30 a.m., Line Dancing; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., Bingo; 2 p.m.; 5 p.m., Zumba Gold.

Tuesday, Dec. 2: SHINE Representative Available (by appt.); 9 a.m., Exercise, Knitting Class, Sewing Class; 10 a.m., Chair Exercise; 12:30 p.m., Ladies Billiards, Mah Jongg, Movie ("It's a Wonderful Life"); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 2:30 p.m., Chorus; 4:30 p.m., Yoga; 6 p.m., Beginner Line Dance; 6:30 p.m., Evening Sewing Class, Garden Club Meeting.

Wednesday, Dec 3: 8 a.m., Friends Breakfast Meeting, Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 11:45, Music with Ted Hamel; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Scrabble, Ballroom Lessons; 1:30 p.m., Chapter 2 Banquet (no meeting); 6:30 p.m., Western Mass. Genealogy Meeting; No Zumba Gold.

Thursday, Dec. 4: 9 a.m., Exercise; 9:30 a.m., Quilting; 10 a.m., Line Dancing; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Pitch, Open Art; 2 p.m., Melody Band Practice; 6:30 p.m., Evening Pitch, Evening Line Dancers.

Friday, Dec. 5: 8 a.m., Yoga; 9:15 a.m., All Media Art; 9:30 a.m., Tai Chi; Noon, Canasta; 12:30 p.m., Friends Variety Fundraiser; 1 p.m., Pitch, Cribbage; 5 p.m., Zumba Gold; 7 p.m., ACC Event.

Sunday, Dec. 7: 3 p.m., New Valley Singers Concert.

Lunch menu

Monday, Dec. 1: Cream of broccoli soup, Caesar salad topped with grilled chicken breast, apples.

Tuesday, Dec. 2: Ravioli carbonara, spring salad, birthday cake.

Wednesday, Dec. 3: Kielbasa, kapusta, pirogues, rye bread, diced pears.

Thursday, Dec. 4: Broiled hamburger topped with peppers and onions, lettuce and tomato, macaroni salad, pudding.

Friday, Dec. 5: Linguini and red clam sauce, spinach salad, mixed fruit.

Business

DD HOSTS GRAND OPENING



Submitted photo

A ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of Dunkin' Donuts on Main Street in Agawam was held recently. Among those in attendance were Mayor Richard Cohen, state Sen. Don Humason, state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, and city councilors George Bitzas, James Cicchetti and Cecilia Calabrese.

Agawam businesses named to 'Super 60' lists

Several Agawam businesses were honored with "Super 60" awards by the Affiliated Chambers of Commerce of Greater Springfield Inc. at an award ceremony at Chez Josef last week.

Agawam businesses honored for total revenues were Environmental Compliance Services Inc.; Kittredge Equipment Company Inc.; Sarat Ford-Lincoln; Specialty Bolt & Screw Inc.; Spectrum Analytical Inc. Across the region, the top three in total revenue were Balise of West Springfield, Stavros Center for Independent Living Inc. of Amherst and Nuvo Bank and Trust Co. of Springfield.

Agawam businesses honored for revenue growth were V & F Auto Inc. and Westside Enterprises Inc. The overall top three in revenue growth were City Enterprise Inc. of Springfield, Troy Industries Inc. of West Springfield and Chemex Corp. of Chicopee.

The Super 60 program, now in its 25th year, celebrates the success of the fastest-growing and privately owned businesses in the region which continue to make significant contribu-

tions to the strength of the regional economy. To be considered, companies must be based in Hampden or Hampshire counties or be a member of the Affiliated Chambers, have revenues of at least \$1 million in the last fiscal year, be an independent and privately owned company, and be in business at least three full years. Companies are selected based on their percentage of revenue growth over a full three-year period or total revenues for the latest fiscal year.

"Small business is the backbone of our region, and the success of this year's winners is a clear indication that our regional economy is strong," said Affiliated Chambers President Jeffrey Ciuffreda. He noted that the average revenue of each of the 30 companies in the total revenue category exceeded \$35 million, with a combined revenue of over \$1 billion. One-third of the 30 companies in the revenue growth category experienced growth in excess of 50 percent, with the average growth of all the honorees in that category at more than 49 percent.

Nolan attends Realtors Conference & Expo

SPRINGFIELD — Patrick Nolan, of Agawam, president of the Realtor Association of Pioneer Valley (RAPV), and Dawn Henry, of Palmer, RAPV president-elect, joined 17,000 Realtors and industry experts from across the country at the Realtors Conference & Expo held in New Orleans, Nov. 6-10.

This year's conference theme, "Realtors in Full Swing," encouraged Realtors to take full advantage of new technology, tips from top industry professionals and the opportunity to make new contacts from across the globe. Realtors were

given the chance to hear from real estate experts and leaders in featured talks and panels.

Nolan and Henry headed-up a local delegation of over 20 RAPV Realtors and staff.

Attendees also had the opportunity to explore the newest products and innovations that are set to transform the real estate industry. Over 350 exhibitors showcased the latest products and services available to the industry during the trade expo.

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MOBIL DONATES \$500



Turley Publications photo by Michael J. Ballway

Phelps School principal Noelle Colbert, center, accepts a check for \$500 from Exxon Mobil Corp. to support educational programs at the elementary school. Standing with her are Christina Liberty, manager at the Mobil station at 634 Main St., and Ray Cross, district manager for Exxon Mobil. Cross said the corporation asks each Mobil station to designate one school in its community to receive a \$500 grant each year. Colbert said the money will be spent on math enrichment activities such as games, interactive web-based programs and hands-on projects, spread across all elementary grades.

Jacqueline Svadeba weds Paul Eshleman

John and Suzanne Svadeba, of Feeding Hills, and James and Suzanne Eshleman, of Yucaipa, California, are pleased to announce the marriage of their children, Jacqueline Natasha Svadeba to Paul Edward Eshleman on Oct. 3, 2014.

Attending the bride as maids of honor were her sisters, Marie (Svadeba) Szenda and Suzanne (Svadeba) Beaudette. Bridesmaids were Stefanie L’Erario, cousin of the bride, Rose Gallagher, Shauna Itzen, Britta LeBlanc, Grace Kuo and Hannah Foley. Ella Marie Beaudette, niece of the bride, was the flower girl.

Attending the groom as best men were Dylan Gavin and Christopher Garrison. Groomsmen were James and John Eshleman, brothers of the groom, and Nicholas Beaudette and Michael Szenda, brothers-in-law of the groom. Zayden Eshleman, nephew of the groom, was the ring-bearer.

The wedding Mass was celebrated at St. Anne’s Church in Chicopee with the Rev. William Rousseau officiating the ceremony. The newlyweds continued the celebration with family and friends at the Ludlow Country Club.

The bride is a 2005 graduate of Agawam High School. In 2010, she received her bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of Oregon, where the couple met. At Oregon, Jacqueline was a member of the acrobatics and tumbling team, and Paul was a catcher on the school’s baseball team. Jacqueline is currently employed as the head acrobatics and tumbling coach for Alderson Broadus University in West Virginia.

The groom is a 2008 graduate of Redland Hills East High School in Yucaipa. After competing for the University of Oregon’s baseball team as well as USCSB, he was drafted in 2012 by the Milwaukee Brewers. This past season, he was a catcher for one of the Brewers’ farm teams, the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers.

The bride and groom’s first dance was to “I Don’t Dance,” by Lee Bryce, and their closing song was “God Gave Me You,” by Blake Shelton. The couple is currently residing in West Virginia.



Submitted photo

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Eshleman

Library art show through Nov. 28

The Friends of the Agawam Public Library Sixth Open Juried Art Show is on display through Nov. 28 at the Agawam Public Library. The works of 83 artists from 36 towns and cities in Massachusetts and Connecticut are shown. Awards were presented Nov. 14 in several categories.

Agawam artists whose work is displayed include Marilyn Gabel (“Rock Center Rocks II,” second place, other media); Robin Jensen (“Brewster Store,” watercolor); Michele LaPalme (“Dusk,” colored pencil); Gloria McLellan (“Green Cap,” pastel); Lyle Pearsons (“Night Light,” oil); Alexandra Walters (“Turban Squash,” colored pencil); and David Wright (“Encounter at the Bridge,” third place, acrylic).

For more information about the Friends of the Agawam Public Library, an independent nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the town library with fundraisers, workshops, educational activities and volunteer services, write to Friends of the Agawam Public Library, P.O. Box 478, Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0478.

Public Safety

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 51 EMS calls and the following emergency response calls for the week from Nov. 18 to Nov. 23.

On Nov. 18 at 10:34 a.m., the department responded to St. Jacques Avenue for smoke or odor removal.

On Nov. 18 at 5:29 p.m., the department responded to Paul Revere Drive for public service assistance, other.

On Nov. 19 at 4:32 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Nov. 20 at 11:24 a.m., the department responded to Perry Lane for lockout.

On Nov. 21 at 6:06 p.m., the department responded to Hillcrest Street for good intent call, other.

On Nov. 22 at 10:18 a.m., the department responded to Wilson Street with no incident found at dispatch address.

On Nov. 23 at 10:26 a.m., the department responded to North Westfield St. for unauthorized burning.

On Nov. 23 at 4:36 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for smoke or odor removal.

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 228 calls for service from Nov. 18 to Nov. 23. The department made 1 arrest. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Monday, Nov. 21

Steven W. Sosnowich, 48, of 283 Rowley St., Agawam, was arrested on two default warrants for failure to appear.

AGAWAM ADVERTISER SEEKS MEETING CORRESPONDENT

The Agawam Advertiser News, a Turley Publication, covering Agawam and Feeding Hills, is seeking a freelance correspondent to cover municipal and school district meetings on a regular basis. Applicants should be familiar with town government and have good writing skills. A degree in communications, English or journalism is not required, but encouraged. The applicant should be available on nights. Position is paid per story. Please send cover letter, resume and writing samples to Editor Tim Kane at 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or tkane@turley.com. No phone calls or drop-ins please.

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HAM HILL TENTS TO THE RESCUE



Submitted photo

Todd Servis, left, owner and operator of Ham Hill Tents in Southwick, and Roy Wetherell, take a break after setting up tents and tables for the October annual beer and winetasting fundraiser weekend at the Captain Charles Leonard House in Agawam. The tents came in handy during the deluge of rain, keeping everything dry.

Agawam Schools’ weekly lunch menu

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL
The Agawam High School lunch menu is posted on the school’s website.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
Monday, Dec. 1: Baked mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, whipped potatoes, seasoned vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.
Tuesday, Dec. 2: Hamburger on a whole-wheat bun, lettuce and tomato, potato wedges, fresh and chilled fruit.
Wednesday, Dec. 3: Ziti with meat sauce, whole-wheat breadstick, seasoned corn, fresh fruit, Dole Fruit Push-Up.
Thursday, Dec. 4: Half day. No lunch service.
Friday, Dec. 5: Individual pizza rounds, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL
Monday, Dec. 1: Baked mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, whipped potatoes, seasoned vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.
Tuesday, Dec. 2: Hamburger on a whole-wheat bun, lettuce and tomato, potato wedges, fresh and chilled fruit.
Wednesday, Dec. 3: Ziti with meat sauce, whole-wheat breadstick, seasoned corn, fresh fruit, Dole Fruit Push-Up.
Thursday, Dec. 4: Half day. No lunch service.
Friday, Dec. 5: Individual pizza rounds, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
Monday, Dec. 1: Baked mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, whipped potatoes, seasoned vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.
Tuesday, Dec. 2: Hamburger on a whole-wheat bun, lettuce and tomato, potato wedges, fresh and chilled fruit.
Wednesday, Dec. 3: Ziti with meat sauce, whole-wheat breadstick, seasoned corn, fresh fruit, Dole Fruit Push-Up.
Thursday, Dec. 4: Half day. No lunch service.
Friday, Dec. 5: Individual pizza rounds, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

GREEN, from page 8

Losses in S. Hadley, balanced elsewhere
Other municipal golf courses have had mixed results. Chicopee Country Club General Manager Mike O’Neill said the course has a budget of \$731,228. He confirmed last week the course met its budget in fiscal 2014.
The two country clubs owned by the city of Springfield, Franconia and Veterans Golf Course, made money in the past fiscal year. The combined budget for the courses was \$1,216,150. The two courses took in \$1,505,000.
South Hadley, however, had bigger woes than Agawam. Town Accountant William Sutton said the golf course suffered a \$100,000 loss in fiscal 2014.
“We had to use free cash to fund the gap,” said Sutton.
The course budget was \$942,510.
Before approving the \$91,000, Johnson asked for, and received a written commitment that the \$91,000 plus the \$22,245.20 would be returned to the general fund if the revenues in the spring allow.

Councilor Gina Letellier was reluctant to approve \$91,000, and suggested a small amount be approved. Johnson rebuffed that proposal, saying if the golf course budget is lowered and all the money is spent, the course would have to close, putting it further in the red.
Councilor Robert Rossi said he was troubled by the request.
“I voted for the \$22,245 because I felt we had no other choice,” said Rossi. “I feel like we are held hostage by this request because we approved their (golf course) budget back in June.”
The golf course budget was set in June at \$552,000 for fiscal 2015. Johnson said the golf course is projecting it will make \$589,000 in by the end of June 2015.
The town has spent \$427,000 in taxpayer money on the golf course in the past year, making up budget gaps and purchasing new golf carts.
The council has also approved a new subcommittee to begin a review of the golf course and its business practices. They will be preparing an improvement plan to suggest to the mayor.

POLICY, from page 1

Councilor Paul Cavallo admitted to accusing Rossi of trying to micromanage the town. Rossi objected, saying taxpayers pay their bills four times a year and deserve to see a town seal on a car and know a policy is in place for the proper use of those vehicles.
“This is also a policy that should be in the town code,” said Rossi.
Councilor Gina Letellier said she appreciated the intent of the policy, but found problems with the language. She asked Rossi to withdraw the policy so it could be rewritten. Letellier was among those voting against the policy.
Cavallo said he believes there is already transparency with vehicle use. He says the town has a log for employees that sign out cars. Vehicles assigned to a particular person, such as the fire chief, are also known.
Rossi was unhappy with a car purchase made by Mayor Richard Cohen earlier this year, saying the City Council was not informed about the purchase and major purchases like that should be going through the council.
Cohen utilized funds from a recycling line known as “Compost Bins.” The revolving account takes in revenue from recycling programs, and purchasing energy-efficient vehicles is a permitted use of the funds. The fund source does not require council approval for use.
Rossi complained that eight vehicles, totaling \$278,000, had been paid for with the Compost Bins account, without any oversight.

“Not one of those purchases came through this body (the City Council),” said Rossi.
Rossi then turned his attention to the vehicle use policy, which through his and Rheault’s research, did not exist. When asked, Cohen was able to produce a vehicle use policy, and sent a letter to the City Council saying it was unnecessary.
“The town has a proper vehicle use policy in place,” said Cohen. He went on to state there is no confusion among town employees about the proper use of town-owned vehicles and misuse is currently handled through the procedures listed in the collective bargaining agreement with the various unions.
Cohen also says having a vehicle assigned is not just a free car for use.
“It is considered a fringe benefit and I have to pay taxes for my use of the city car,” said Cohen. “I also do not use the car for personal trips. I have another vehicle available for that.”
In the past few years, Cohen’s administration has purchased eight hybrid vehicles per a policy established by the Energy Commission. Each vehicle saves the town approximately \$1,000 per year in fuel costs. It also requires one annual maintenance visit, versus three for non-hybrid vehicles, according to the mayor.
“We are constantly working to become more energy-efficient and save the taxpayers money with our vehicle purchases,” the mayor said.

Vendors wanted for Dec. 10 craft fair

The Agawam Junior High School and the Washington D.C. Club will host a Holiday Vendor and Crafts Night Wednesday, Dec. 10, from 6 to 9 p.m. in the school’s cafeteria. Nearly 30 vendors will offer a wide variety of holiday crafts, edible delights, raffles prizes and everyday items that make perfect gifts for the holidays.
Anyone interested in reserving a vendor space can do so at www.agawampublicschools.org, at the AJHS school webpage or by contacting Norm Robbins at 413-821-0542. Applications may be downloaded from the school webpage and are also available in the AJHS office.

Tickets available for Elvis tribute show

St. John’s Travelers is offering tickets to “Happy 80th Birthday Elvis” at the Hu Ke Lau, 705 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, on Sunday, Jan. 11, beginning at 11:45 a.m.
Tickets are \$48 per person for the luncheon and reserved seating for the “Blue Hawaiian Show.” The menu will include salad, rolls and butter, prime rib of beef or baked scrod, potato, vegetable, dessert and coffee or tea.
For more information and tickets, call Emile Cote at 413-335-9440.

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All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legal notices for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.
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In the Classroom



Turley Publications photos by Michael J. Ballway

Serving pies to students on Nov. 20, from left, are Superintendent of Schools William Sapelli, Food Services Director Joel Illouz, Mayor Richard Cohen and School Committee member Shelley Reed.



Assistant Superintendent Allison LeClair, center, and School Committee member Shelley Reed add dollops of whipped cream to two students' pies. Between them, holding a pie slice, is Mayor Richard Cohen.

Officials dish out pies during Jr. High 'Thanksgiving Dinner'

Members of the school administration and School Committee took their mission of serving local students literally last week, handing out pies during Agawam Junior High School's "Thanksgiving Dinner" on Thursday, Nov. 20.

The celebrity servers, who offered stu-

dents a choice of pumpkin, chocolate, apple and a couple other varieties, were School Superintendent William Sapelli and Assistant Superintendent Allison LeClair, School Committee member Shelley Reed and Mayor Richard Cohen, who serves as chairman of the school board.

The school's hot lunch that day was turkey, mashed potatoes and green beans. Joel Illouz, director of food services for Agawam schools, said he was glad to bring back "a deep-rooted tradition" in Agawam schools that had been skipped in recent years.

"We want to make sure kids are able to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal," even if their families lack the resources to manage such a feast, Illouz said.

Illouz said Agawam High School also held a Thanksgiving meal, on Friday, Nov. 21.

Agawam High School counseling bulletin

Open Houses: Many colleges are hosting open houses for the next few months. Check the Counseling Center website for times and dates.

Visiting College Representatives: To meet with any of the following college or university representatives that will be visiting the school, sign up at least one day in advance in the Counseling Center: Dec. 3: 8 a.m., Bay Path College.

FREE SAT Practice Test: Princeton Review will host a free SAT practice test to AHS students on Saturday, Jan. 10 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Students must pre-register at princetonreview.com or 1-800-2Review ext. 1065. Postcards have been mailed home to all 10th- and 11th-graders.

SAT Prep Course: Princeton Review will host an SAT Prep Course at AHS beginning

Jan. 28. Students must pre-register and pay at princetonreview.com or 1-800-2Review ext. 1065. Postcards have been mailed home to all 10th- and 11th-graders.

Universal Technical Institute Power-palooza: Is offering a "day in the life" where students will have the opportunity to "test drive" their labs and work with their instructors, on Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is open to all 11th- and 12th-graders. Lunch is provided. Hands-on workshops covering Hot Rod, Super Street and Diesel Basics will be offered. Students must RSVP to sboydston@uti.edu by Dec. 3.

Seniors that applied Early Action or Early Decision or before Nov. 16: Please provide your counselor with a regular-sized envelope for each school you applied early to so that an updated transcript can be mailed

to them right away. The envelope must include one stamp, be addressed to each college and include your first and last name only in the left hand corner.

Financial Aid Night: Will be held Wednesday, Dec. 3 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Doors will open at 6 p.m. A representative from the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA) will be present to explain the financial aid application process and to answer parent's questions. While this program is aimed at seniors, all parents are welcome.

College Applications: The deadline to submit all college applications to your counselor is Dec. 5.

Scholarships: See your counselor for more information or an application.

Residents attain honors at Holyoke Catholic

CHICOPEE — The following Agawam students were named to the first quarter honor roll at Holyoke Catholic High School.

First Honors — Grade 9: Alex Sowinski; Grade 10: Lauren Fedore, Alex Keough, Karleigh Schuhlen; Grade 11: Meredyth Clifford, Natalie Koziol, Abigail Malouin; Grade 12: Amanda Rose Benoit.

Second Honors — Grade 12: Arbaaz Khan, Lauren Muszynski.

Honorable Mention — Grade 12: Jude Giordano.

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The VIEW RESTAURANT



Patrons filled multiple rooms at the First Baptist Church of Agawam.

Christmas craft fairs kick off season

The weekend preceding Thanksgiving was certainly the time to peruse craft fairs. A variety of four different holiday craft fairs and bazaars were held on Main Street in Agawam on Nov. 22: the Agawam Senior Center, Agawam Congregational Church, First Baptist Church of Agawam, and St. John's Parish Center.



Local honeys, jams, and jellies glow under Saturday's sun at the Agawam Congregational Church Holiday Wreath Bazaar.



Shoppers browse the Agawam Congregational Church Holiday Wreath Bazaar.



Small child-sized homemade dolls sit happily at the Agawam Congregational Church Holiday Wreath Bazaar.

Turley Publications photos
by Kimberly Hatch



An assortment of vintage jewelry was available for purchase at bargain prices at the First Baptist Church of Agawam.



Betty Fogg of Agawam was all smiles as she sold home goods at the Agawam Congregational Church Holiday Wreath Bazaar.



Sock snowmen by the name of "Blizzard Buddies" were hand-made by three-generation family members Kim Biron, Kylie Biron and Cheryl Musinski. The decorative toys were available at the Agawam Congregational Church Holiday Wreath Bazaar.



Ouida Gnull of Agawam shares a laugh with customer, Jennie Oyola of Springfield, at the First Baptist Church of Agawam.



Vicki Fogg, 10, of Ludlow pokes through the raffle items at the First Baptist Church of Agawam.

Free medical clinic at Bethany

A New Covenant Free Clinic is being co-sponsored by New Covenant Community Services and Bethany Assembly of God on Tuesday, Dec. 2, 6-8 p.m. The clinic will provide non-emergent care for people age 18 and over.

“The mission is to provide medical care in the Pioneer Valley community by the serving body, mind and spirit with compassionate Christ centered care,” explained Dr. Kevin Snow, the clinic physician.

Although people are required to have insurance in Massachusetts, in the current economic condition some people cannot afford the co-payments to see their primary care physician for immediate non-emergency medical issues. The free clinic is intended

to help these individuals receive the medical care they so desperately need.

The staff of licensed medical care workers volunteer their time and skills, and no revenue will be collected for the services provided. The entire team is committed to providing quality care on all levels. A visit to the clinic will include a demographic check-in, medical assessment, and spiritual encouragement. The free clinic operates once a month at Bethany Assembly of God, 580 Main St., Agawam. All medical records will be kept in strict confidence.

For more information, call the clinic at 413-363-0098 and leave a message. Your call will be returned.



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Town to support Toys for Tots

Mayor Richard Cohen invites the public to join him in support of the Toys for Tots program, Wednesday, Dec. 17, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Agawam Town Hall.

Donations of unwrapped toys will be accepted on-site at that time. There will also be a Toys for Tots drop-off box at town hall in the lobby during working hours

Tickets available for Resorts Casino trip

The Agawam Golden Agers, Chapter 2, will host a trip to the Resorts Casino in Atlantic City, March 23 through March 25. This trip is open to the public. The cost is \$190 per person and includes deluxe motor coach, \$30 slot bets, \$10 food credit, two buffet coupons, a show and two nights stay at the casino.

The bus will leave at 7:30 a.m. from Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills. For more information or reservations, call Art Usher 413-786-3567.

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SPORTS

Titans take second in New England Prep

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham & Monson Academy's girls soccer team concluded its season Nov. 16 with a nice, new shiny piece of hardware as the Titans claimed the runner-up trophy in the New England Prep School Athletic Council's Class B tournament.

WMA fell to a rock-solid team from the Groton School 2-0 in the final at the Williston Northampton School.

"To win two great games in the playoffs, and to get to the New England final for the first time since 2008 was a great accomplishment for the Titan team," WMA coach Don Nicholson said. "The girls should hold their heads high. They wanted that title. I'm really proud of them, especially the seniors, who we will miss greatly next year."

WMA went 12-2-2 and earned the Women's Western New England Prep School Soccer Association Class B title during the regular season. The Titans were seeded second in the eight-team Class B field for the playoffs, where they topped Lawrence Academy 2-1 on penalty kicks in a quarterfinal before posting a 4-2 triumph over Governor's Academy in a semifinal. Both games were at home.

"We had an outstanding season,"

Nicholson said. "Right from the beginning, our girls were a great group that came together. They were very close, on and off the field, which is sometimes unique. Right from the beginning, we had a great regular season. We had a couple bumps here and there, but to finish up with a 14-3-2 record was fantastic."

The team received exceptional leadership from its two captains, seniors Tori Bernardo and Molly Socha all season, as well as from the remainder of the seniors on the team: Alex Baltazar, Nica Bernardo, Nicole Cronin, of Feeding Hills, Meg Harrington and Kirstyn Kelly.

"With our co-captains, Molly and Tori, they were excellent," Nicholson said. "And then the other seniors fell in behind them. There were no issues about who was leading the team. They all worked very well together. The group functioned as an efficient group, and it was a solid group on the field. They took us far and helped the younger girls grow and develop."

Tori, Alex and Molly were named to First Team All-League, while Nicole and Gianna Mitchell were selected to the Honorable Mention list.



Turley Publications submitted photo by WMA

The WMA girls soccer team finished with the second place trophy in the New England Prep School Athletic Council's Class B tournament.

Baseball team receives big donation

Made in honor of Quinn

By Gregory A. Scibelli

*Turley Publications
Correspondent*

AGAWAM - The Agawam High School baseball team will look a little sharper, and could also be a little cooler thanks to a \$2,300 donation in the name of a former player.

Donna Pisano, a resident of Feeding Hills, made the donation last week to Agawam Athletics Director David Stratton. The donation will pay the full cost of varsity and junior varsity uniforms.

Pisano and a committee of nine other held a golf tournament at Oak Ridge Country Club, and made the donation in honor of her friend, Tommy Quinn, a former three-sport athlete and baseball standout at Agawam.

Quinn passed away on Jan. 31 at age 56.

"Donna and her friends really wanted to do something in Tommy's name," said Stratton. "Baseball was his top sport."

Stratton said he has been working with an Under Armor vendor, and the new uniforms are a much

See BASEBALL, page 14

Volleyball Girls All-Stars announced

HOLYOKE - The International Volleyball Hall of Fame is proud to announce the third Annual Spalding Western Massachusetts Girls High School Volleyball All-Stars.

The 56 players selected for this honor are from 31 high schools throughout all four counties of Western Massachusetts.

Each of the first-team players were invited to play in the Spalding Girls All-Star Volleyball Game presented by the International Volleyball Hall of Fame.

Additionally, 28 second-team players have been selected and received special awards between sets two and three at the All-Star game on Tuesday, Nov. 25 at West Springfield High School.

See VOLLEYBALL, page 14



Turley Publications photos by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com

Agawam's Lexi Cears was named to the second team.

Football playoff system still needs work

By Gregory A. Scibelli

*Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent*

REGION - The Agawam football team has traveled to Wahconah for the past two seasons to compete in the Western Massachusetts Division 4 Tournament.

Other teams have had to make long journeys to the Western Mass. final while non-qualifying teams play in seemingly meaningless games as they "play out the string" until Thanksgiving.

In some cases, like Minnechaug Regional High School, after a playoff exit, the Falcons play a non-playoff game. Then, their season ends as they do not play on

Thanksgiving Day

Agawam has had the opportunity to be involved in the playoffs for the past two seasons under the new playoff format, which means all their games mean something, as well as their annual Thanksgiving matchup with West Springfield.

"Regardless of how the playoff is formatted, the Thanksgiving Day game always means something to our kids," said Stratton. "But they have been playing West Springfield for so many years."

Unfortunately, other teams, such as Ware High School, don't have the same history on Thanksgiving. The Indians have been on both sides of the playoff and non-playoff games during the last

two years. Athletics Director Rob Slattery believes the format needs changes.

"We are not a fan of the new playoff system," said Slattery. "Whether you make the playoffs or not there is a lot to debate and argue. Non-playoff games should be paired better. The non-playoff games need to take all factors into account not just record. We should either do away with the playoff system or move to an eight-team system."

The other major issue with the new playoff system, which was instituted two years ago and favored a situation where there would be six state champions, one for each division, instead of 16 or 17 cham-

pions from the different regions and their divisions, is the lack of neutral sites.

Stratton says it is not the fact Agawam has to make a long journey to play in the finals, it's the unfairness of not having a neutral site for the semifinals and finals.

"For many years, we have always played the semifinals and finals of most of our major sports at a neutral site," said Stratton. "In many cases, that site has been halfway between the two teams. The best case scenario is that the neutral site is pre-determined."

Stratton said he never actually received the rationale behind not having neutral sites in the football playoffs, but is hoping the Mas-

sachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association at least looks at the situation during the offseason.

"It would have been nice if we could have played at a place like Northampton," said Stratton. "That would have been neutral for both teams."

Stratton said he voted in favor of the new format two years ago, and was willing to give it a chance.

Slattery agrees about the neutral site issue, but reiterated an eight-team format may suit teams better because more teams would be in the playoff hunt for a longer time.

"It can be difficult to keep players motivated during the non-playoff games," said Slattery.

Swim season begins soon

Rule change made in diving

By Nate Rosenthal
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

REGION - The swimming season is about to begin and as soon as the Thanksgiving break is over, the teams will head for their respective pools to begin practicing for what promises to be a great swim season.

The dual meets get underway on the second Friday in December and run through the end of January. Then a week later, the Pioneer Valley teams get together with teams from the Berkshires for the Sectional championships, truly one of the most exciting mass events in the area. Here the swimmers who have qualified for events vie for supremacy in Western Mass and try to earn their way to the state meet. If one has not had the opportunity to witness a championship swim meet, they should come to the Art Link letter Natatorium to do so.

The Minnechaug boys have won the Sectional championship for the last seven years and are determined to get an eighth. That, in and of itself, is an amazing feat. In seven years, they have nearly turned over two complete classes from freshman to senior and have maintained the top spot. On the girls side, Northampton has a more modest streak of two championships. With some of the premier swimmers in the area and one of the best in the country, Erin Voss, the road to the championship, goes through Northampton.

With the beginning of the season, there are always some changes in the rules. Some are quite subtle and for the most part, do not affect the performances of the athletes to any appreciable degree. In fact, many are so under the radar, that it would be hard to notice them at all. That may encompass, instructions by officials to the swimmers, which unless one is really tuned in to the nuances, it would not be noticed. These are amongst the rule changes that help the officials clarify what may have been some confusing language. There are changes like that for this year as there have been for many years prior. One rule change stands out and that comes

in the diving competition. The awarding of points in diving has undergone a fairly significant change. It starts in the middle and revises what is considered a satisfactory dive. Last year, such a dive awarded 4.5 to 5.5 points. The change gives a satisfactory dive 5 to 6.5 points. This means that a dive without any major flaws will be scored higher. Also under the old system, there was a designation for exceptional at 9-10 and excellent at 7.5 to 8.5, with good at 6-7. The exceptional dive definition has been removed and the excellent dive is now a 10. Very good has been added at 8.5-9.5 and the good dive is now 7-8. What this means in the big picture is that divers who do not have any major flaws are going to see their scores rise and on the higher end there will be more 7s, 8s and even 9s, where in the past and 8.5 was relatively rare.

The impetus behind the change was to bring the scoring and degrees of difficulty more in line with one another by bringing together the rules of the NFHS, the MIAA and USA Swimming. The change should go a long way toward clearing up confusion on the part of the divers and officials. For those in the gallery, the higher scores will be another source of excitement. A lot of thought has gone into this at the national levels and it should make for a more satisfying experience at the diving competitions.

On a more innocuous level, the usage of starter guns has been eliminated. While live ammunition has been prohibited for some time, now the rule gets rid of starter pistols altogether. This is a good thing and is likely driven by the common use of automatic starter systems. Since it has been quite rare for pistols to be used inside anyway, few people will notice, but now it is codified into the rules.

In a couple of weeks, pools from around the area will be packed with swimmers and spectators and the winter season will have truly begun.

Nate Rosenthal is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com.

Bright spots shine through for Brownies

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Correspondent

AGAWAM – In some places, it was a down year for the fall teams at Agawam High School, but there was still no shortage of teams contending for titles this fall.

Agawam High School was still well represented, starting with the football team, which did not have the perfect regular season they had last year, but was able to qualify for the tournament as the No. 2 seed again, and made the lonely trip to Wahconah Regional High School.

The Brownies made a huge improvement in their play against the Warriors, actually getting on the scoreboard this year after being shut out the year before. They not only scored early, but had the lead before the Warriors, a very talented team, were able to come back and take the title away.

Agawam has a 7-3 record with just their Thanksgiving Day game to play this morning, concluding the fall season for all athletes, and the football career of several talented seniors.

The most success individual in the school was Megan Dustin, a standout harrier on the girls cross country team.

Dustin had one of the best turnarounds an injury-plagued athlete can. After spending a lot of time unable to compete due to injuries, Dustin was able to work with her coach and doctors and made it through the entire cross country season.

She made it through the full slate of championship races for the first time this season. She competed in the PVIAC meet for the first time in three years, improving from a 21st place finish her freshman year, to winning it all at Stanley Park in Westfield.

She took her talent to the difficult Northfield Mountain course and placed second in

the Western Massachusetts Division 1 meet, and qualified to participate in the state meet at historic Franklin Park in Boston. Dustin won five regular season meets and shattered the girls record at Robinson State Park, Agawam's home course.

In soccer action, both the boys and girls soccer teams qualified for the tournament.

The boys were able to score a major upset in the opening round of the tournament, placing a 4-0 hurting on Minnechaug, a team that had shut them out earlier in the season. The Brownies were passed by a balanced attack throughout the season, with several good scoring threats.

But their season was finally ended when they were upended by West Springfield, a perennial championship contender, in the semifinals.

The girls soccer team was able to qualify by tying for second place in their league. They had a wild open to the playoffs at Northampton High School. The Brownies came all the way back from a 3-0 deficit to tie the score 3-3, but a late second-half goal spelled the end for the Brownies as they fell 4-3.

Another individual competitor had a great season as Matteo Godek nearly qualified for the state golf championships. He carded a 76 in Great Barrington in the Western Mass. match, but was edged out despite an appeal that a Westfield player who competed was ineligible.

The Brownies will have an exciting winter season coming up, with the hockey team hoping to get back to the Division 3 title game, the wrestling is also looking to repeat as league champions, and send more individuals to the state tournament.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

Daggett boys team members sign NLIs

AGAWAM – Three members of the boys competitive gymnastics team at Daggett Gymnastics signed National Letters of Intent to accept athletic scholarships with renowned colleges during a ceremony at the Agawam gym on Nov. 12.

Peter Daggett, of East Longmeadow, signed his National Letter of Intent to attend the University of Oklahoma. With this action, Peter accepted a full athletic scholarship to a preeminent powerhouse of men's gymnastics, the Oklahoma Sooners. Daggett, who is a Level 10 gymnast, has been a member the USA Gymnastics National Team and is presently ranked 13th in the nation for his competitive level.

His chosen school, Univ. of Oklahoma, is a virtual who's who in men's gymnastics producing World and Olympic Medalists including Jonathon Horton and Jake Dalton.

Daggett called signing with Oklahoma "a dream come true."

During the same ceremony, Shaun Herzog of Manchester, Conn., signed his National Letter of Intent to attend the University of Minnesota. In doing so, Shaun accepted an athletic scholarship to a Big Ten Leader, the "Golden Gophers." Minnesota greats include John Roethlisberger, a three-time Olympian and four-time National All Around Champion.

Herzog is presently ranked 23rd in the country, also as a Level 10 gymnast, and as a member of the Daggett competitive boys gymnastics team, has been a State and Regional Champion many times over.

Herzog said, "I couldn't be more excited to begin the next phase of my gymnastics career and join two other Daggett Gymnastics standouts, [alumni] Daniel DiBenedetto and Luke Aldrich, in Minnesota."

The third member of this elite team, Eric Klein, of West Brookfield, signed a commitment letter to the Air Force Academy. The Air Force Academy has emerged as a gymnastics force to be reckoned with following the hiring of 1996 Olympian Kip Simmons as head coach. Klein is presently ranked 27th in the nation as a Level 10 gymnast, and is a USA Gymnastics National Champion on vaulting.

Beyond gymnastics, Klein is very involved in his community and is the public relations officer for his school's National Honor Society.

"I've always loved the Academies and the Air Force Academy is an amazing opportunity and it will set me up for great experiences for the rest of my life," Klein said.

During their training at Daggett Gymnastics, all three young men have been coached in part by the gym's owner, Tim Daggett, an Olympic champion and a member of the USA Olympic Hall of Fame. Daggett is best known now as the "voice of gymnastics" for NBC Sports, covering the last six Olympic Games, and will be commentating in Rio in 2016.

Over the past 25 years of helping area boys and girls discover the power behind the practice of gymnastics, Daggett Gymnastics has produced numerous State, Regional, and National Gymnastics Champions. Dozens of its male and female gymnasts have earned full athletic scholarships to universities all across America.

For additional information about the members of the competitive gymnastics team, or the recreational classes at Daggett Gymnastics, call 413-786-4686 or visit us on the web at www.DaggettGymnastics.com.

MassWildlife and NSSF urge hunting S.A.F.E.

STATEWIDE – Responsible hunting is a time-honored tradition that plays an important part in managing wildlife in the Commonwealth. Responsible hunting means respecting game animals, hunting ethically and hunting safely. Because this is a time of year when a lot of firearms are in use and in transport, MassWildlife and the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) reminds hunters that they can take steps to prevent firearm accidents in the field, at the range, at home and everywhere in between. That means remembering that "The Hunt Isn't Over Until You Are S.A.F.E."

S.A.F.E. stands for Secure your firearms when not in use; be Aware of those around you who should not have access to firearms; Focus on your responsibility as a firearm owner and Educate yourself and others about safe firearm handling and storage.

Safe and secure storage of firearms is the best way to prevent firearm accidents. To complement MassWildlife's hunter education program and provide additional resources on proper firearm storage and safety, NSSF has made several resources available on the project childsafe website.

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West Side-Agawam Over The Years

Agawam won its second straight game in the series with a 19-18 victory over West Springfield on Thanksgiving morning. Agawam is 5-2 in games decided by one point in the series. Agawam leads the series 60-26-3.					
2013	Agawam 19-18	1989	West Side 12-7	1956	West Side 28-13
2012	Agawam 50-36	1988	West Side 22-21	1955	West Side 33-7
2011	West Side 17-14	1987	Agawam 48-6	1954	Agawam 19-12
2010	West Side 20-0	1986	Agawam 21-0	1953	Agawam 34-21
2009	West Side 32-20	1985	Agawam 15-12	1952	West Side 13-7
2008	West Side 39-0	1984	Agawam 23-6	1951	Agawam 34-21
2007	Agawam 34-27	1983	Agawam 18-7	1950	Agawam 20-12
2006	Agawam 20-12 (OT)	1982	West Side 20-3	1948	West Side 18-14
2005	Agawam 18-12	1981	Agawam 13-6	1947	Agawam 13-7
2004	Agawam 42-6	1980	West Side 26-0	1946	Agawam 26-0
2003	Agawam 30-8	1979	West Side 42-15	1945	Agawam 65-0
2002	Agawam 26-0	1978	Agawam 42-6	1944	Agawam 13-0
2001	Agawam 14-6	1977	West Side 28-8	1943	Tie 7-7
2000	West Side 17-14	1976	Agawam 15-14	1942	Agawam 14-13
1999	Agawam 27-6	1975	Agawam 15-2	1941	West Side 13-7
1998	Agawam 21-14	1974	West Side 16-6	1940	Agawam 27-0
1997	Agawam 27-8	1973	Tie 14-14	1939	Agawam 7-0
1996	Agawam 29-21	1972	Agawam 13-12	1938	West Side 7-0
1995	West Side 7-6	1971	Agawam 28-8	1937	Agawam 6-0
1994	West Side 14-6	1970	Agawam 32-6	1936	Agawam 33-6
1993	Agawam 22-0	1969	Agawam 30-28	1935	Agawam 34-6
1992	Agawam 14-7	1968	Agawam 14-6	1934	Agawam 7-0
1991	West Side 14-0	1967	Agawam 20-6	1933	Tie 0-0
1990	West Side 16-8	1966	Agawam 24-0	1932	Agawam 19-13
		1965	Agawam 32-8	1931	Agawam 34-0
		1964	Agawam 34-8	1930	Agawam 7-6
		1963	Agawam 22-2	1929	West Side 6-0
		1962	West Side 26-12	1928	Agawam 30-6
		1961	West Side 12-8	1927	Agawam 25-0
		1960	West Side 48-8	1926	Agawam 7-0
		1959	Agawam 41-0	1925	Agawam 20-6
		1958	West Side 8-0	1924	Agawam 6-0
		1957	Agawam 54-0		

VOLLEYBALL, from page 12

First Team			Second Team		
Player	School	Year			
Meg Adams	Ware	2017	Lexi Cears	Agawam	2015
Justine Bohl	Amherst	2015	Stephanie Chapin	Minnechaug	2016
Rachel Clark	Frontier	2016	Sarah Conlisk	Frontier	2016
Cassidy Clark	Frontier	2015	Alexis Corcoran	Chicopee	2016
Nina Dias	Ludlow	2017	Samantha Cox	Longmeadow	2015
Savannah Ditomassi	Longmeadow	2015	Nana Darkwa	West Springfield	2015
Katie Gagnon	Minnechaug	2016	Samantha Decarlo	Pittsfield	2015
Carolina Garcia	Central	2015	Julia Decker	East Longmeadow	2015
Alyssa Guyon	Ludlow	2015	Alyssa Doerle	Taconic	2015
Alexis Hamlett	Athol	2015	Chapin Duffy	Amherst	2015
Zoe Lipkens	Minnechaug	2016	Miracle Eastman	Mahar	2015
Caroline Locke	West Springfield	2015	Jomaraliz Gali	Renaissance	2016
Nicki Longey	West Springfield	2015	Kelsey Johnstone	Westfield	2016
Caroline McCoy	Longmeadow	2016	Emily Jordan	Wahconah	2015
Cara McKenzie	Belchertown	2017	Amanda Lambert	Easthampton	2015
Ayanna Meadows	Chicopee	2017	Kacey Legare	Chicopee Comp	2015
Paulina Modestow	Minnechaug	2015	Meghan Martkowski	Ludlow	2015
Tessa Neverett	Athol	2015	Zelibeth Matias	Sci-Tech	2015
Remi Quesnelle	Frontier	2016	Angelica Merced	Putnam	2015
Erin Reed-Coates	Belchertown	2015	Ally Mishol	Longmeadow	2015
Alysha Rentas	Mahar	2015	Brianna Porter	Pioneer Christian	2015
Emma Robin	Longmeadow	2015	Mackenzie Salls	Turners Falls	2015
Julia Salmond	Athol	2015	Sadie Simons	Ware	2016
Shayla Shally-Jensen	Amherst	2015	Jazlyn Wanzo	Sabis	2015
Makayla White	Lenox	2015	Emily West	Holyoke	2015
Kendra Williams	Lee	2015	Hope Willis	Mt. Greylock	2016
Emily Woodford	Belchertown	2015			
Emily Woodward	Frontier	2016			

BASEBALL, from page 12

lighter weight and help keep players cooler while playing. He said the donation was greatly appreciated, and had a ripple effect on the entire department.

“Thanks to their donation, I was able to stretch out my uniform budget further and get more uniforms for other teams,” said Stratton.

The softball, girls basketball, and wrestling teams are among the teams that will also get new uniforms during the season.

Pisano said the larger donation, which includes junior varsity uniforms, will be helpful to coaches in the spring.

“Because they all have the same uniforms, if the coach wants to pull a JV player up to the varsity, they will not have to worry about changing out their uniforms,” said Pisano.

Pisano described Quinn, a 1975 graduate of Agawam High School, as a very generous man who enjoyed giving back to the community when possible. Quinn was responsible for starting a benefit for Shriner’s

Hospital. His first benefit netted \$25,000 for the area hospital.

“He really loved giving back and paying it forward,” said Pisano. “He would be very glad the baseball team is getting new uniforms. He loved to play. I am also happy the donation is allowing the other teams to get new uniforms as well this year.”

Quinn was a pitcher in high school and moved on to play in college. Pisano, a close friend of Quinn’s, said the pitcher was looked at by the Cincinnati Reds, but a shoulder injury ended Quinn’s pursuit of a career in baseball.

Stratton has already ordered the uniforms and he is excited about them getting used in the spring. The current varsity uniforms, which are still in decent condition, will go to the freshman baseball team next season.

The new uniforms will be orange with white lettering, and a brown trim.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com.

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Obituaries & Church News

News, upcoming events at Agawam Congregational

The public is invited to attend the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., "A place to call home - a people to call family." Sunday service is at 10 a.m. with a children's message, church school fellowship and coffee hour following.

Thursday, Dec. 4, 11, 18: Playgroup, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Open to the public. The program follows the Agawam Public School schedule.

Sunday, Dec. 7: 10 a.m., Second Sunday of Advent, the Candle of Peace, Family Communion, Joy/Youth Fellowship, a children's message, church school, and coffee/fellowship hour following the service. The Mitten Tree is up.

Sunday, Dec. 14: 10 a.m., Third Sunday in Advent, the Candle of Love Worship Service, Alice Moore Golden Bell Choir ringing, a children's message, Mitten Tree, church school and coffee hour.

Monday, Dec. 15: 4 p.m., Loaves & Fishes.

Saturday, Dec. 20: 7:30 a.m., Men's Ministry meets at Bobbie J'z.

Sunday, Dec. 21: 10 a.m., Worship Service with welcoming of new members, Fourth Sunday in Advent, Candle of Joy, Choir Cantata, Children's Christmas Pageant, Mitten Tree Dedication, no church school and coffee hour. Church Family Christmas Party after church.

Monday, Dec. 22: 6 p.m., Women's Ministry Christmas Party.

Tuesday, Dec. 23: 9 a.m., Newsletter Colation.

Wednesday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve, 5 p.m., Family Candlelight Service; 11 p.m., Traditional Candlelight Service.

Church office closed on Thursday, Dec. 25 and Friday, Dec. 26.

Sunday, Dec. 28: 10 a.m., Worship Service. No church school or coffee hour.

Pastor Tom Howells is always available for prayer after the service. Newcomers are welcome and members of the community are invited to participate in all church events. For more information, call the church office at 786-7111. Regular office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until noon.

Upcoming events at Hope Community Church

Hope Community Church, 152 S. Westfield St., Feeding Hills, has announced the following upcoming events.

Wednesday, Dec. 3: 6:30 p.m., Women's Advent Service

Wednesday, Dec. 31: 11 p.m., Christmas

Eve service

The small groups and Sunday school classes have begun. For more information on all events and services, visit hopechurchagawam.org.

Christmas Concert at United Methodist

The Agawam United Methodist Church and Mrs. Thompson's Piano School will present a Christmas Concert on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 2:30 p.m. The free concert of carols, sacred and popular Christmas music is open to the public.

The concert will feature piano selections by musicians ranging in age from early el-

ementary school to adults. The Agawam UMC singers will provide choral and instrumental music.

The Agawam United Methodist Church is located at 459 Mill St. in Feeding Hills, across from Agawam High School. Call 413-786-5344 or email AgawamUMC@gmail.com for more information.

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Announcement- Free electronic hearing tests will be given from Monday-Friday 9am - 5pm at Avada Hearing Care Centers in 9 locations in Western Mass. Call to find the location nearest to you. The test has been arranged for anyone who suspects they are not hearing clearly. People who usually say they can hear but have trouble with understanding words are encouraged to come in for the tests. The testing includes newly-developed tests that determine your ability to hear speech in noisy environments. Everyone, especially those over 55 who have trouble hearing words clearly, should have a test annually. Demonstrations of the latest devices to improve clarity of speech will be available, on the spot, after the tests. You can HEAR for yourself if the latest methods of correction will help you understand words better. Call for your Appointment

1-888-798-8528

DEATH NOTICES & SERVICES

Booska, Leona R.

Died Nov. 20, 2014
Funeral Nov. 24, 2014
Toomey O'Brien Funeral Home
West Springfield

Grabinski, Frank J.

Died Nov. 17, 2014
Funeral Nov. 18, 2014
Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home

Chicketti, Constance A.

Died Nov. 18, 2014
Funeral Nov. 24, 2014
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home

Weber, Jon-Paul S.

Died Nov. 19, 2014
Private burial
West Springfield
Curran-Jones Funeral Home

Leona R. Booska, 102

Leona R. (Kampschroer) Harrow Booska, 102, passed away on Nov. 20, 2014, at Heritage Hall in Agawam. Leona is predeceased by her husband Alfred F. Booska, her daughter Connie A. Hollis, her son-in-law Joseph E. Hollis Jr., her granddaughter Tina Marie Hollis, and her grandson Matthew J. O'Connor. She leaves her daughters Nancy L. Velozo and her husband Bill of Agawam, Elizabeth R. Blood and her husband Dana of Bradenton, Fla., and Marian I. Schindler of Agawam; three stepchildren, Steven Booska and his wife Amanda of California, Betty Gravel of California, and Laloni Norman and her husband Harold of



Monson; two sisters, Loretta Piper and her late husband Vincent, of Westfield, and Charlotte Bodurtha and her husband Jack of Agawam. Leona leaves nine grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, four great-great-grandchildren and many, many nieces and nephews. She is also predeceased by her two brothers, Louis and Richard Herdendorf. The funeral was Nov. 24 from Toomey O'Brien Funeral Home of West Springfield, at First Baptist Church of Agawam, with burial at Agawam Center Cemetery. Memorial donations in Leona's name, in honor of her late daughter, Connie Hollis, may be made to Rays of Hope, c/o Baystate Health Foundation, 280 Chestnut St., 6th Floor, Springfield, MA 01199

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. A sleeveless garment

5. Cold vegetable dish

10. Believed to bring good luck

12. Shittah tree

14. Hotel heiress

16. Of I

18. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo

19. ___ King Cole, musician

20. Passover ceremony

22. ___ fi: space genre

23. Yearned

25. Desperate

26. Corded fabric

27. London radio station

28. Digital audiotape

30. Licenses TV stations

31. Employs

33. Food bar

35. Bigeye shad genus

37. Hog fats

38. Spoke

40. Moss capsule stalk

41. Openwork fabric

42. Chit

44. Holds for use

45. Ed Murrow's home

48. Egyptian god of life

50. Shaped into a sphere

52. Golfing stand

53. Red Sea straits

55. Swiss river

56. Hostelry

57. Indicates position

58. Inoculation

63. Slip by

65. Apple smartphone

66. Sheep cries

67. Affirmatives

CLUES DOWN

1. An inferior dog

2. 4th Caliph of Islam

3. Foot (Latin)

4. Relating to a people

5. Added sodium chloride

6. Perform something

7. Vientiane is the capital

8. Blemished

9. Roman 501

10. Keep up

11. Operator

13. Arbitrarily punished

15. 007's creator

17. Gets up

18. Used to be United ___

21. Optical phenomenon of light waves

23. People supported broadcasting

24. Tap gently

27. With no brim or bill

29. Bulrushes

32. Educational test

34. Overweight

35. Musical composition

36. A religious recluse

39. Alt. of Tao

40. Heavyhearted

43. Brit. suspenders

44. Bodily structure protrusion

46. Sesame

47. 1/100 yen

49. About navy

51. Dali language

54. Celery cabbage

59. Winter time in Chicago

60. Annual percentage yield

61. Definite article

62. Operating system for 65 across

64. Pound (abbr.)

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The Wire EDM Manager will manage EDM department for in-house tooling and support other divisions EDM projects.

Duties:
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Qualifications:
Must be proficient in the following: CAD/CAM (AutoCAD a plus) Minimum of 5 years Wire EDM programming and operation experience (4 axis programming a plus) Reading of Engineering Prints (GD&T) Strong computer skills Manufacturing or Machining background a plus Global Shop familiarity a plus Please send resumes to kgoodrow@profiles-inc.com as well as PO Box 850 Palmer, MA 01069

TEACHER'S AIDE, PT Position available at Kidstop Children's Center, Ware. Kidstop is an EEC licensed, NAEYC accredited Infant/Toddler and Preschool Program serving 38 children. Responsibilities include assisting teachers in the creation of a safe and caring environment for children aged 3 months to 4 years. The ability to multi-task, work as a team member in a fast-paced setting and communicate clearly is a must. Experience in Early Childhood or a related field is preferred. Flexibility in assignments and work hours is required. Salary commensurate with experience. Excellent benefits. Please send letter of interest and resume to: Chris Baker, Childcare Coordinator, Carson Center at Valley Human Services, 96 South Street, Ware, MA 01082 Equal Opportunity Employer EOE

Help Wanted

LOCAL WIRE MANUFACTURER Company in Palmer, Ma is accepting resumes for Manufacturing Engineering Position.

Job Purpose:
Develop and improve Manufacture processes. Programming and assistance of the EDM Department.

Duties:
Shop Floor Support thru Tooling and process design Programming of Wire EDM equipment

Qualifications:
Must be proficient in the following: CAD/CAM Wire EDM Reading of Engineering Prints (GD&T) Strong computer skills General knowledge in area of: Metallurgy, Dimensional Controls and Inspection methods Manufacturing or Machining background a plus Global Shop familiarity a plus Please send resumes to PO BOX 850 Palmer, MA 01069 or via email to kgoodrow@profiles-inc.com

SUPERVISOR/ DISPATCHER FOR School Transportation Company. Do you like a busy work atmosphere? Are you up for a challenge? This position requires excellent communication skills and must be organized. Supervisory skills desirable. We will train you! Located in Barre, MA. Starting pay based on experience with opportunities to earn performance bonuses. Send resume in Word format to Ryann@vanpoolma.com.

PACKAGE STORE CLERK- P/T Register experience. Hours vary. Some weekend work required. 21+ only. Please call Carol, leave message **(413)736-5664.**

SCHOOL VAN DRIVERS. 4-6 hrs/ day. \$12/ hr plus bonuses. Must be good with children and have 7+ years safe driving exp. Will train. Call **(978)355-2121** after 9:30 AM for application. EOE

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OPEN YOUR HEART and your home to a child in need. Become a foster parent with Massachusetts MENTOR! Earn \$20,000 per year working from home! To get started call Nicole Konarski **(413)746-3768**

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Real Estate



CHICOPEE-Great starter home. The house needs TLC to make it shine. Replacement windows, private backyard, storage shed and goldfish pond. Short sale. (71739822) **\$90,000**



HARDWICK-Great Ranch over an existing business. Nice level lot w/ paved parking area. Convert business back to single family and gain 700 sf. Great neighborhood. (71733781) **\$183,500**



HARDWICK-Fantastic opportunity to live mortgage free as an owner/occupant or as an investor. Well maintained 4-family with great potential in a nice location. (71733777) **\$216,000**



MONSON-Four Acres of Prime Space for your business along Route 20/Boston Road in Monson on the Wilbraham/Monson/Palmer lines. (71763455) **\$99,000**



SOUTH HADLEY-Great opportunity to own a fantastic 4BR/2.5BA home extremely well taken care of and all the major updates have been done. Great 2,700 sf. home! (71762075) **\$337,800**



WARE-This listing represents two parcels for this price: 16 E. Main St. and 2 E. Main. Lots of open area with plenty of street frontage. Endless opportunities! (71747764) **\$100,000**

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NORTH BROOKFIELD: Four bedroom colonial on beautifully landscaped corner lot, recent updates including electric to 200 amp and installing heat on 2nd floor. Lower level inlaw possibilities. Move in ready. **\$158,000**

WALES: Horse Property, contemporary home that is spacious and open, barn set up for 4+ horses, fencing, riding area, two living rooms, balcony off master bedroom. Oversized private deck. **\$239,900**

WARE: Older home getting new roof, on small side street just outside of town. Two enclosed porches, nice yard. Potential for conversion to income property. **\$74,500**

WARREN: You must see this Condo completely renovated, 3 bedroom, modern kitchen with all stainless steel appliances. **\$44,900**

NEW BRAINTREE: Privately set three bedroom ranch on 2+ acres, three season room and partially finished lower level. **\$163,000** (735 Wine Rd)

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Glenn Moulton	413-967-5463
Ruth Vadnais	413-348-8916
Jill Stogitis	413-477-8780
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CHICOPEE 1 BR IN-LAW apt, w/private bath. Full size kitchen, livingrm/ bedroom. Your own w/d, private entrance, includes all utilities, internet, Direct TV, off-street parking. Non-smoker, For pics <http://westernmass.craigslist.org/ap/4762345170.html> **\$750/mo (413)222-8293.**

PALMER 1BR - Quiet Secure Country Location. Locked Storage & Laundry in Basement. K/DR Combo - LR-Full Bath. Nice Layout. No Smok/Pets. 1st/last/sec. \$700.00 Breton Est. **413-283-6940**

For Rent

CHICOPEE SZOT PARK, large 3 BR, 1,700 sq.ft. plus 2 car garage, new flooring, new paint. Includes stove, fridge and wall A/C, w/d hook-ups in basement. \$1,250/ mo plus utilities. 1st, last, security, No smokers/ pets. Must pass credit and background check. **(413)896-0049.**

EAST FOREST PARK - Spacious 3+ bedrooms. Hardwood floors, fireplace, yard, appliances. Close to colleges, shopping and highway. \$950 + utilities. Inquiries to 16RupertSt@gmail.com

FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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For Rent

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Vacation Rentals

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Auto For Sale

1997 DODGE RAM 2500 4WD. 105,371 miles. Black, 2 year old transmission. Remote start. Tool box. Runs good. \$3,500. **(413)536-2277**

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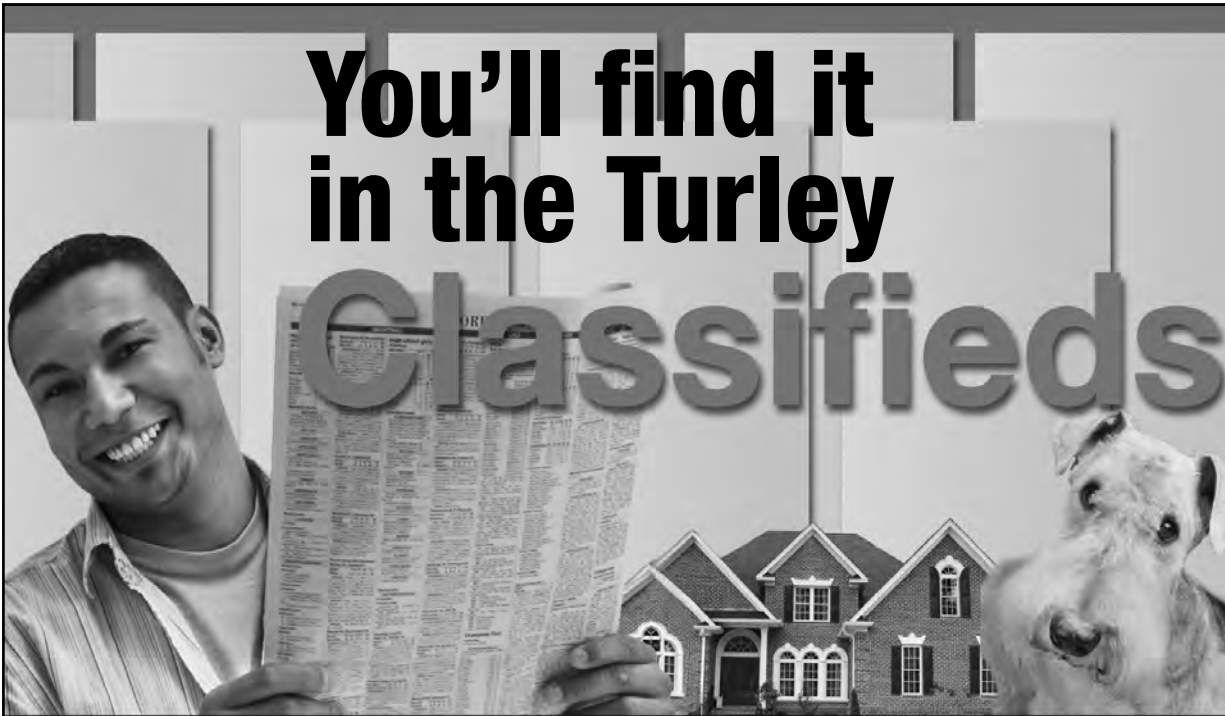
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Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote “free” events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Sunday, Nov. 30

“A LITTLE BIT OF CHRISTMAS,” a concert for all ages featuring vocalists from throughout the Pioneer Valley, will welcome the launch of the Advent season at Faith United Church, 52 Sumner Ave., Springfield at 4 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public with refreshments served following the concert. A free will offering will be taken to benefit the Springfield Rescue Mission.

Monday, Dec. 1

THE AGAWAM PUBLIC LIBRARY will host Suzanne Strempek-Shea, author of “Make A Wish But Not for Money,” at 7 p.m., as part of its continuing “AuthorTalk” series. Her book tells the story of an unemployed palm reader who plies her trade in a dying shopping mall. To register for this event, call 413-789-1550 or visit www.agawamlibrary.org. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Tuesday, Dec. 2

THE TUESDAY MORNING MUSIC CONCERTS at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield will feature the Epic Brass Quintet in a holiday program directed by Earl Raney, at 10:30 a.m. Free refreshments are provided after the performances. For more information, contact Yolanda Martin, 25 Valentine St., Springfield or John Karalekas, TMMC president, Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield 01138.

Thursday, Dec. 4

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present “J.M.W. Turner: His Life, Work and Influence on American Authors and Artists,” featuring Robert J. Begiebing, novelist and English Professor Emeritus,” at 12:15 in the Museum of Fine Arts, at 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call (413) 263-6800, ext. 488.

Friday, Dec. 5

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL’S APPLAUSE SERIES ends its 2014 season tonight at 7 p.m. when Dan Kane & Friends perform a concert of Christmas favorites and American standards at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. This and all Applause Series events are free and open to the public.

FITNESS FIRST HEALTH & FITNESS CENTER, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, will host a blood drive sponsored by Mercy Medical Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A driver’s license with photo or state identification with photo is required. All donors should eat at least two to three hours prior to donating, weigh at least 110 pounds and must be 18 years or older. To make an appointment, call (413) 786-1460.

Saturday, Dec. 6

SANTA CLAUS WILL BE STOPPING BY WITH MRS. CLAUS at Heritage Woods Senior Living from 10 a.m. to noon. Children can take a picture with Santa and enjoy treats and activities. For more info or to RSVP, call 413-789-8332 or email Nicole.wallace@genesishcc.com.

WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY will host “Breakfast with Santa” with seatings at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. in Scanlon Banquet Hall. Tickets are \$7 for children; \$9 for adults. Children 3 and under can attend for free, but will not receive a gift from Santa or a seat without a ticket. Tickets will be sold online at www.westfield.ma.edu/tickets. Snow date, Sunday, Dec. 7.

Sunday, Dec. 7

THE GFWC AGAWAM JUNIOR WOMEN’S CLUB will host its annual “Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus” from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Roberta G. Doering Middle School, 68 Main St., Agawam. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. The Agawam Family & Community Program will also offer free books and a story walk. Snow date is Dec. 14.

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS will host a “mini tour” at 1 p.m., led by Richard O’Brien, DMFA, highlighting “Let it Snow: Winter Scenes in Japanese Prints.” The tour is free

with museum admission and secure, free onsite parking is available.

AFFINITY BRASS, OF THE NEW YORK CITY chamber music scene, will perform at the Music on High Performing Arts Concert Series at First Church of Christ, Congregational, 81 High St., Suffield, Conn., at 4 p.m. Suggested donation, \$20; \$15 for seniors students and church members.

Wednesday, Dec. 10

THE AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL and the Washington D.C. Club will host a Holiday Vendor and Crafts Night from 6 to 9 p.m. in the school’s cafeteria. Nearly 30 vendors will offer a wide variety of holiday crafts, edible delights, raffles prizes and everyday items that make perfect gifts for the holidays.

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$7 for adults, \$4 for children.

Sunday, Dec. 14

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER, 1590 Sumner Ave., Springfield, will present “On Stage Live – The Christmas Family” at 6 p.m. Admission is free. Nursery care provided up to 2 years old. For more information, call 413-782-7171.

Wednesday, Dec. 17

DONATIONS OF UNWRAPPED TOYS to support the Toys for Tots program will be accepted at ceremonies held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Agawam Town Hall. There will also be a Toys for Tots drop-off box at town hall in the lobby during working hours

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER, 1590 Sumner Ave., Springfield, will present “On Stage Live – The Christmas Family” at 6 p.m. Admission is free. Nursery care provided up to 2 years old. For more information, call 413-782-7171.

Sunday, Dec. 21

A COMMUNITY LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE and Christmas Carol Sing-Along will take place at 5 p.m. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served.

ONGOING

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library. No registration needed.

THE LADIES GLEE CLUB AND MEN’S CHOIR at the Springfield Turnverein are back to work. Practice is held every Wednesday with the ladies beginning at 7 p.m. followed by the men at 8:30 p.m. All are welcome. There is space available for anyone interested in joining.

A BLOOD CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Agawam Senior Center conference room. A light dinner is served. For more information or to register, call (413) 789-0200, visit www.springfieldmed.com, or email survivorshipprogram@gmail.com.

A BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 6 to 7:15 p.m. at office of Maryann Paleologopoulos LICSW, Inc., 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam (at the rotary). Refreshments served. For more information or to register, call (413) 789-0200, visit www.springfieldmed.com, or email survivorshipprogram@gmail.com.

THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAMILY PLAYGROUP, which takes place at the church at 745 Main St., Agawam, is open to children birth through age

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		B	L	A	T	S		A	Y	E	S				

5 with a parent or caregiver and meets weekly on Thursdays from 9:30-11 a.m. It includes crafts, stories, songs, free play and more. For more information, call 786-7111 or email jbrownacc@verizon.net.

A CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP meets the third Thursday of each month, 6 to 7:30 p.m., at the office of Maryann Paleologopoulos LICSW, Inc., 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam (at the rotary). Refreshments served. For more information or to register, call (413) 789-0200, visit www.springfieldmed.com, or email survivorshipprogram@gmail.com.



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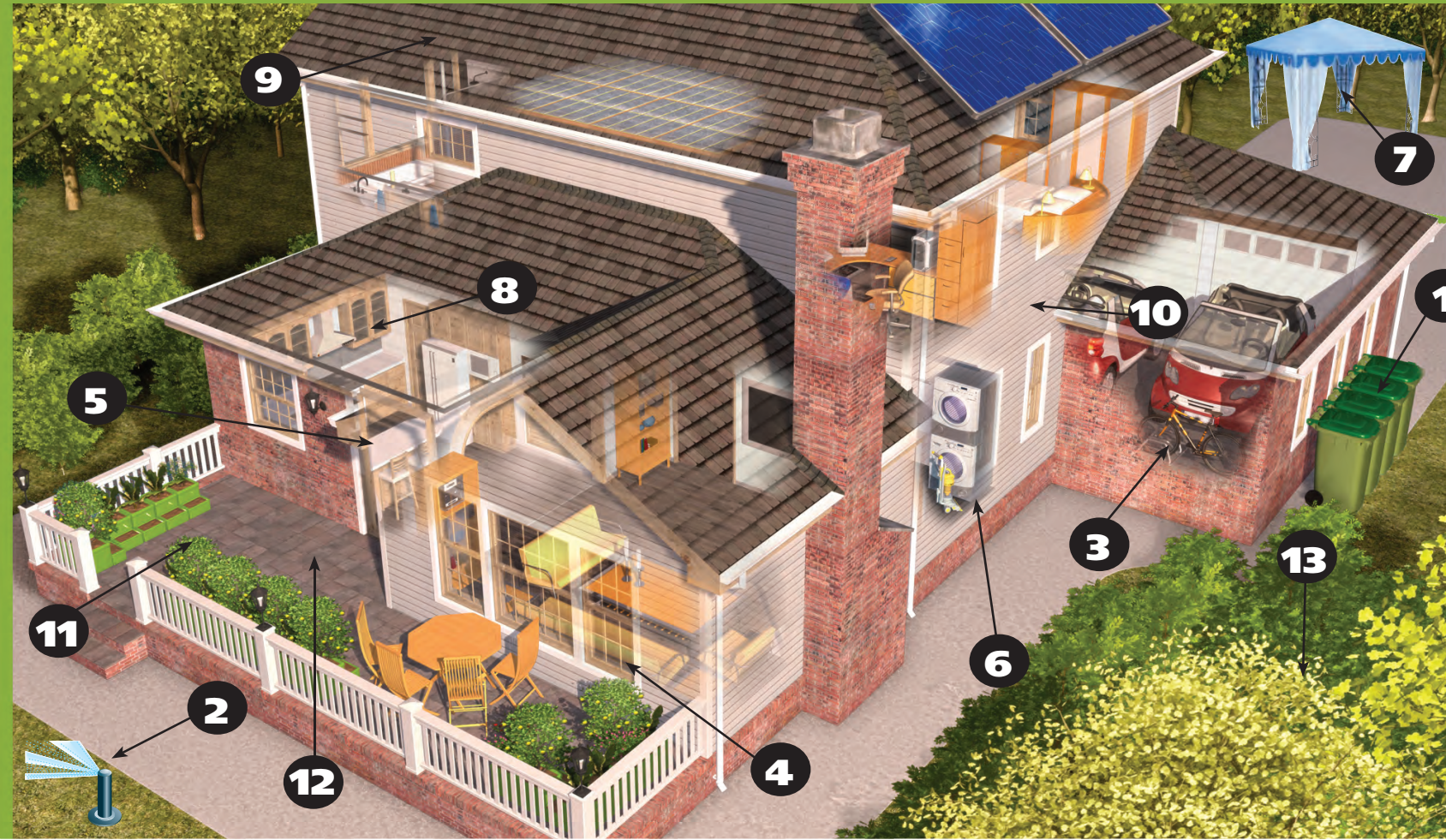
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